



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk (860)441-6640  
Town Manager  
(860)441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Representative Town Meeting

**Representatives Jeffrey Armstrong, Joseph Baril, Lori Bartinik, Genevieve Cerf, Wayne Chiapperini, Michael Collins, Joseph delaCruz, Luanne DeMatto, Debra Dickey, Susan Dowling, Shirley Dunbar-Rose, George Edwards Jr, Suzanne Elliot, Norbert Fay, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Barbara Hoelck, Gordon Lange, David Miner, Nancy Mitchell, Deborah Monteiro, Matt Morton, Scott Newsome, Nora Patterson, Darcy Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Rita Schmidt,, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, George Swift, Patricia Thunberg, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, John Waller and Elizabeth Weil.**

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Wednesday, June 9, 2004

7:30 PM

Senior Center

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#### Regular Meeting - Revised Agenda

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#### A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. 24 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Rep. Baril, Rep. Collins, Rep. delaCruz, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Dickey, Rep. Dowling, Rep. Dunbar-Rose, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Miner, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. M. Morton, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Power, Rep. Schmidt, Rep. Steere, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swift, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Vivirito, Rep. Walker, Sr., Rep. Waller, II and Rep. Weil

Members Absent: Rep. Armstrong, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chiapperini, Rep. Edwards, Jr., Rep. Elliot, Rep. Fay, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hoelck, Rep. Lange, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Stein and Rep. Streeter

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

#### B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Moderator requested a moment of silence in memory of President Ronald Reagan followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Swift.*

#### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*1. A motion to approve the Minutes of April 14, 2004 was made by Rep. Schmidt, seconded by Rep. Walker. The motion to approve carried 22 in favor, 2 abstentions (abstaining: Reps. Monteiro, Waller).*

*2. A motion to approve the Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting was made by Rep. Walker, seconded by Rep. Miner.*

*Rep. Steinfeld noted that on page 8 under account 1046, she disclosed her husband serves on the Planning Commission.*

*Rep. Baril questioned the placement of the referrals on page 3. The Town Clerk stated that the referrals were announced at the May 5 budget session since the regular monthly RTM meeting had been cancelled. This will be clarified in the minutes.*

*Moderator Dunbar-Rose requested that the Minutes reflect that the flowers given to Rep. Bartinik were from her husband, Councilor Peter Bartinik.*

*The vote to approve the Minutes as corrected carried 23 in favor, 1 abstention (abstaining: Rep. Waller).*

#### D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

*None.*

#### E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

*Moderator Dunbar-Rose reported that the following three ordinances have been referred for information only and will be officially referred by the Council soon.*

*2004-0171 Ordinance Dissolving the First Taxing District.*

*2004-0172 Ordinance Dissolving the Second Taxing District.*

*Ordinance Amending Ordinance No 216 Creating the Ledge Light District Department of Health. (The portion being amended is the term limits.)*

*The Moderator stated that Item 2004-0175 RTM Request for Restoration of funds to Account 1064 (Parks and Recreation) was referred to RTM Finance Committee on Wednesday, May 13, 2004 for consideration only to determine if the RTM should present a resolution to the Town Council requesting restoration of \$10,000 to that account. The due date was set for July 14, 2004.*

*She reported that Reps. Stein, Bartinik, Lange, Elliot, Cerf called and will not be attending. Rep. Dickey may be late.*

## **F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:**

### **1. Financial report**

*Mr. Vincent reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund Balance of July 1, 2003 is \$4.9 million or 5.0% of the Actual FYE 2003 Expenditures; the General Contingency for FYE 2004 was appropriated at \$400,000 and 4th quarter transfers in the amount of \$184,500 have been approved by the Town Council and referred to the RTM for consideration at tonight's meeting. He provided an update on the status of conveyance of the hatchery to the Town. The final step is the preparation of the deed from the State and he does not have a definite time frame when this will be completed. He stated the Town is unable to collect rental fees until the conveyance is completed.*

### **2. Monthly briefing**

*The Town Manager provided information on the finalization of the budget. He stated a referral will be forthcoming in July or August requesting a joint meeting of the RTM and Council to discuss the budget process and expectations and to provide improved direction for the Town Manager and Town staff during budget preparation.*

*He stated the Town will not be closed in observance of the passing of President Reagan since there are no contractual obligations with the Town.*

*The Town Manager recognized Parks and Recreation employee Cindy Driscoll for her hard work soliciting the private contributions for the Summer Concert series. This program was scheduled to be eliminated and but through the hard work and perseverance of Ms. Driscoll and other staff members, the program was reinstated for this season with no Town funds.*

*Mr. Oefinger announced that the Permanent School Building Committee is now meeting twice a month since the passage of the three school referenda. He stressed the committee will be extremely busy for the next several years and stated there are several openings for members; the Council is reviewing applicants and they hope to have a full contingent soon.*

*He announced a Public Hearing on June 10 for the rate increase for Aquarion Water Company.*

*The Town Manager recognized Joe Sastre for his diligence in providing information and documentation that resulted in the Town receiving Federal reimbursement for the major snowstorm on December 6 and 7, 2003. The Town has received the \$57,643.50 reimbursement and it was deposited in the General Fund.*

*Rep. Dickey arrived at this point in the meeting.*

*Rep. Walker stated that residents have voiced concerns about how much money is being spent on lawyers with the current Council and asked that the RTM receive a report. Mr. Oefinger stated he could provide information from the monthly invoicing which provides a breakdown of services. Rep. DeMatto asked for the dollar amount in relation to the tax exempt property associated with*

*Groton Long Point. Mr. Oefinger stated he would provide that information in next month's Town Manager News report.*

## **G. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **1. Town Council - Rep. Cerf**

*No meeting, no report.*

### **2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Schmidt**

*Rep. Schmidt reported she was unable to attend the meeting due to an RTM budget session.*

### **3. Town Council/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Rep. Patterson**

*Rep. Patterson reported the gratitude of the Board of Education for restoration of funds by the RTM. She stated there was discussion on: the current safety issues of Eastern Point School and possible relocation of children until construction of the new school is completed; Health Insurance cost savings and the Boards' willingness to review any information available; consolidation of union negotiations with the Town; Permanent School Building Committee and the role it will play in overseeing the new school construction projects.*

### **4. School Design Committee - Rep. Miner**

*The Moderator stated that it would be appropriate to replace the School Design Committee Liaison with Permanent School Building Committee Liaison.*

*Rep. Miner agreed to be the liaison to the Permanent School Building Committee.*

## **H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. FINANCE**

#### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Schmidt**

*Chairman Schmidt read the minutes of the June 9, 2004 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. DelaCruz, seconded by Rep. Miner and so voted unanimously.*

#### **2004-0149 FYE 2004 Fourth Quarter Transfers**

##### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FYE 2004 FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, Section 8.9.5 of the Town Charter provides that upon the request of the Town Manager, in the last three months of the fiscal year, the Council may transfer any unencumbered appropriations from one department to another, and

WHEREAS, Section 8.9.7 of the Town Charter provides for expenditures to be made from the Contingency account, subject to adoption by the Representative Town Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the General Contingency was appropriated at \$400,000 for the current fiscal year, and the following expenditures totalling \$184,500 will leave a Contingency balance of \$215,500, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfers shall be made:

- 1) to Legislative Policy \$10,000
- 2) to Voter Registration \$8,500
- 3) to Legal Services \$36,000
- 4) to Police Department/Patrol and Criminal Investigation \$85,000
- 5) to Public Works/Snow and Ice Control \$45,000

for a total of \$184,500.

**A motion was made by Rep. Schmidt, seconded by Rep. DeMatto, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Rep. Steinford questioned the need for the Public Works transfer in light of receiving the federal*

*reimbursement.*

*The Town Manager explained the federal reimbursement is deposited into the General Fund and the transfer to Public Works must come from the Contingency Fund.*

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Dickey**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **3. EDUCATION**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Newsome**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman DeMatto**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **5. RECREATION**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman delaCruz**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **6. PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Vivirito**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **7. PUBLIC WORKS**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Collins**

*Chairman Collins read the minutes of the meeting held on June 7, 2004. He provided a map showing the exact location of the land to be abandoned on Cedar Lane.*

*A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Schmidt, seconded by Rep. Miner and so voted unanimously.*

### **2004-0013 Abandonment of a Portion of Cedar Lane**

#### **RESOLUTION FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF CEDAR LANE**

WHEREAS, a recorded property map showing Cedar Lane in Noank includes a designated right-of-way which has never been used and is situated beyond the present end of the usable portion of the lane and within the apparent and presumed property of a resident, and

WHEREAS, there has never been a Town plan to use that portion of the indicated right-of-way for Cedar Lane, and there is no foreseeable purpose or intention for the Town of Groton to build or use any extension of Cedar Lane, and

WHEREAS, the indication of a Town right-of-way in official land records unfairly impedes the sale or encumbrance of the residential property involved, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission on February 23, 2004, sent a report in favor of the abandonment of the Town's interest of a 727 square foot portion of Cedar Lane, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has no deeded interest or title in the said right-of-way, and consequently holds no asset or value in the said right-of-way, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon the approval or concurrence of the Representative Town Meeting, the Town Manager may execute a quit claim deed in favor of the owners at 40 Cedar Lane to

relinquish any and all claim or ownership by the Town of Groton in a right-of-way of 727 square feet, more or less.

Refer to RTM

A motion was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Harrell, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **8. RULES & PROCEDURES**

### **a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Weil**

*No meeting, no report.*

## **I. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. was made by Rep. Walker, seconded by Rep. Miner. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk*